

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00517 301217Z

21

ACTION OES-05

INFO OCT-01 EA-09 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AID-05 CEQ-01

CIAE-00 OFA-01 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-07 EPA-04 INR-07

IO-11 L-03 NSF-02 NSC-05 NSAE-00 PM-04 USIA-15 SS-15

SP-02 INT-05 SMI-01 /114 W

----- 103482

R 301120Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4477

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY CALCUTTA

AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY MANILA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

UNCLAS SINGAPORE 0517

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SENV, SN, SPOP, EPAP

SUBJECT: CEQ: SINGAPORE VISIT OF CHAIRMAN PETERSON AND
ASSISTANT DR. TALBOT

SUMMARY: DURING TWO DAY VISIT TO SINGAPORE, CEQ CHAIRMAN
PETERSON AND ASSISTANT DR. TALBOT MET GOS OFFICIALS IN FIELDS
OF ENVIRONMENT, FAMILY PLANNING, INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH,
AND NATURE PRESERVATION. TOUR OF ISLAND'S VANISHING
HINTERLAND BROUGHT HOME SOME OF CHALLENGES SINGAPORE
FACES, AND TO SOME EXTENT, IS WINNING: OPOULATION
CONTROL, INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION, LOSS OF NATURAL ENVIRONMENT
AND COASTLINE. ACTION REQUESTED: ISSUE CONCERNING
SINGAPORE'S ROLE IN TRADE OF ENDANGERED SPECIES OF WILDLIFE AROSE
DURING VISIT. IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES ADVISABLE TO RAISE
MATTER WITH GOS, EMBASSY REQUESTS APPRIATE
INSTRUCTIONS. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 SINGAP 00517 301217Z

1. IN COURSE OF BRIEF VISIT TO SINGAPORE, JANUARY

26-28, CEQ CHAIRMAN PETERSON AND ASSISTANT TALBOT MET CROSS SECTION OF GOS OFFICIALS INVOLVED IN ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS, FAMILY PLANNING, INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH, AND NATURE PRESERVATION. ALTHOUGH TOP GOS OFFICIALS, INCLUDING PRIME MINISTER LEE, WERE NOT AVAILABLE DUE TO CONCURRENT VISIT OF PHILIPPINE PRESIDENT AND MRS. MARCOS, DR. PETERSON AND DR. TALBOT HELD GENERALLY USEFUL AND INFORMATIVE DISCUSSIONS WITH KEY DIVISION AND DEPARTMENT HEADS, INCLUDING: DR. LEE KUM TATT, CHAIRMAN, SINGAPORE INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH (SISIR), LEE YONG SIANG, ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING CHIEF, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, DR. KOH THONG SAM, PUBLIC HEALTH COMMISSIONER, MR. PARAM AJEET SINGH BAL, DEPUTY SECRETARY (ADMINISTRATION), MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, MR. GOH TOCK ENG, SENIOR EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, MR. TAN GUONG CHING, REPRESENTING ANTI-POLLUTION UNIT IN PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE, WONG YEW KUAN, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSIONER, AND GUEK KIAH HUAT, CHAIRMAN OF NATURE RESERVES BOARD. VISIT CONCLUDED WITH COMPREHENSIVE BRIEFING PROVIDED BY DR. D.I. PAKSHONG OF FAMILY PLANNING AND POPULATION BOARD, ALSO ATTENDED BY AMBASSADOR MARSHALL GREEN AND R. W. BOYNTON OF AID WASHINGTON POPULATION OFFICE.

2. DISCUSSIONS/BRIEFINGS FREQUENTLY HOMED IN ON THIS CITY-STATE'S IMPRESSIVE INDUSTRIALIZATION AND MODERNIZATION ALBEIT WITH EVIDENT CONTINUING DAMAGE TO THE DWINDLING NATURAL ENVIRONMENT. DESPITE IMPRESSIVE SUCCESSES IN SEWERAGE DEVELOPMENT, WATER TREATMENT, PENDING SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL IMPROVEMENT, ANTI-LITTER CAMPAIGNS, AND ESPECIALLY THE REGION'S GREATEST POPULATION CONTROL SUCCESS STORY, SINGAPORE'S AGGRESSIVE INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT POLICIES OFTEN OVERRIDE SOME IMPORTANT ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION MEASURES. THE DYNAMIC LEE KUM TATT (SISIR CHAIRMAN) GRAPHICALLY ILLUSTRATED THIS FACT EARLY IN DR. PETERSON'S VISIT BY DESCRIBING HIS OWN ROLE AS MIDDLEMAN OR BROKER BETWEEN THE GOS AND INDUSTRY TO APPLY WITH ALL POSSIBLE FLEXIBILITY SINGAPORE'S INDUSTRIAL POLLUTION CONTROL STANDARDS. SUCH APPLICATION NORMALLY RANGES ALL THE WAY FROM REQUIRING FULL AND IMMEDIATE COMPLIANCE FROM UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 SINGAP 00517 301217Z

COMPANIES WITH HIGH POLLUTION POTENTIAL AND SUFFICIENT DEVELOPMENT CAPITAL TO IMPLEMENT THE STANDARDS (E.G. OIL REFINERIES), TO GRANTING LENGTHY DELAYS TO CERTAIN INDUSTRIES IMPORTANT TO SINGAPORE'S TECHNOLOGICAL DEVELOPMENT, WITH THE INFERENCE THAT THE LATTER IS A RELATIVELY COMMON OCCURRENCE.

3. DRS. PETERSON AND TALBOT SAW AT FIRST HAND, IN A

LEISURELY TOUR JANUARY 26, THE ISLAND'S RAPIDLY VANISHING NATURAL COASTLINE, MANGROVE AREAS, SWAMPS, WATER CATCHMENT LANDS, AND THE 185 ACRE NATURE RESERVE. THEY WERE SOMEWHAT NONPLUSSED LATER WHEN DURING BRIEFINGS AT THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT, A GOS OFFICIAL POINTED OUT WITH OBVIOUS PRIDE THAT AT LONG LAST SINGAPORE'S ONLY REMAINING SWAMP IS ABOUT TO BE FILLED IN.

4. CHAIRMAN AND DR. TALBOT WERE DULY IMPRESSED BY THE CLEANLINESS, GREENNES AND PROSPERITY OF THIS GARDEN CITY. THEY DECLARED THEIR IMPRESSION ON ALL GOS CALLS THAT SINGAPORE IS BASICALLY A DEVELOPED NOT A DEVELOPING NATION AND THUS IN THE SAME LEAGUE WITH THE WEST IN MEETING CRUCIAL ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES. PERHAPS THEY WERE MOST IMPRESSED WITH SINGAPORE'S SUCCESSFUL CAMPAIGN TO CURB POPULATION GROWTH, AN AREA CHAIRMAN PETERSON SEES AS THE FUNDAMENTAL PROBLEM TO SOLVE IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL PRESERVATION PROCESS.

5. DURING VISIT ON SPCA MEMBER RAISED A LOCAL ISSUE OF SOME IMPORANCE TO CEQ: SHIPMENTS OF WILDLIFE, ESPECIALLY ENDANGERED SPECIES, FROM SINGAPORE. GOS HAS NOT SIGNED THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON TRADE IN CERTAIN SPECIES OF WILDLIFE, RECENTLY RATIFIED BY USG, AND MAINTAINS LITTLE EFFECTIVE CONTROL ON EXPORT SHIPMENTS OF WILDLIFE. SHIPMENTS OF WILDLIFE FROM SINGAPORE HAVE TO DATE BEEN ACCEPTED FOR IMPORT INTO US BECAUSE THEY CARRY A VALID EXPORT PERMIT SHOWING SINGAPORE ORIGIN. ORIGIN IN SINGAPORE OF MOST SPECIES OF WILDLIFE IS OBVIOUSLY UNLIKELY, SO REALISTICALLY WILDLIFE IS TRANSHIPPED HERE FROM THROUGHOUT THE REGION AND OFTEN UNDER INHUMANE CONDITIONS. MATTER WAS RAISED DURING VISIT TO NO AVAIL SINCE DRS. PETERSON AND UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 SINGAP 00517 301217Z

TALBOT DID NOT MEET OFFICIALS OF PRIMARY PRODUCTION DEPARTMENT (PPD), WHICH IS RESPONSIBLE FOR SUCH SHIPMENTS. EMBASSY COULD TAKE UP ISSUE WITH PPD IF DEPARTMENT BELIEVES IT DESIRABLE TO DO SO. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE AND PROVIDE APPROPRIATE INSTRUCTION/GUIDANCE. HOLDRIDGE

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING AGENDA, POPULATION, FAMILY PLANNING, RESEARCH, INDUSTRY, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 30 JAN 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976SINGAP00517
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760036-0799
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t1976014/aaaaacym.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION OES
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: hattaycs
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 02 JUL 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <02 JUL 2004 by schwenja>; APPROVED <23 JUL 2004 by hattaycs>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CEQ: SINGAPORE VISIT OF CHAIRMAN PETERSON AND ASSISTANT DR. TALBOT
TAGS: SENV, SPOP, EPAP, SN, (PETERSON), (TALBOT)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006